

CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST

AUGUST'77

16

Monthly meetings are held on the second Friday of each month at the Castlemaine Education Centre (SEC Building, Mostyn St). Visitors and prospective members are invited to attend the club's session.

Pres: Mr R. Bradfield Sec: Mrs R. Mills Treas: Mr L. Bransgrove.

Orchids of the Castlemaine District No 10 of a series by R. Mills

LEOPARD ORCHID

Diuris maculata Flowers: Spring time.

This orchid is fairly widespread in the Castlemaine area. The flower is commonly yellow blotched with brown or brownish-purple, markings. The narrow lateral sepals are curved and cross over behind the labellum. The dorsal sepals are petaloid.

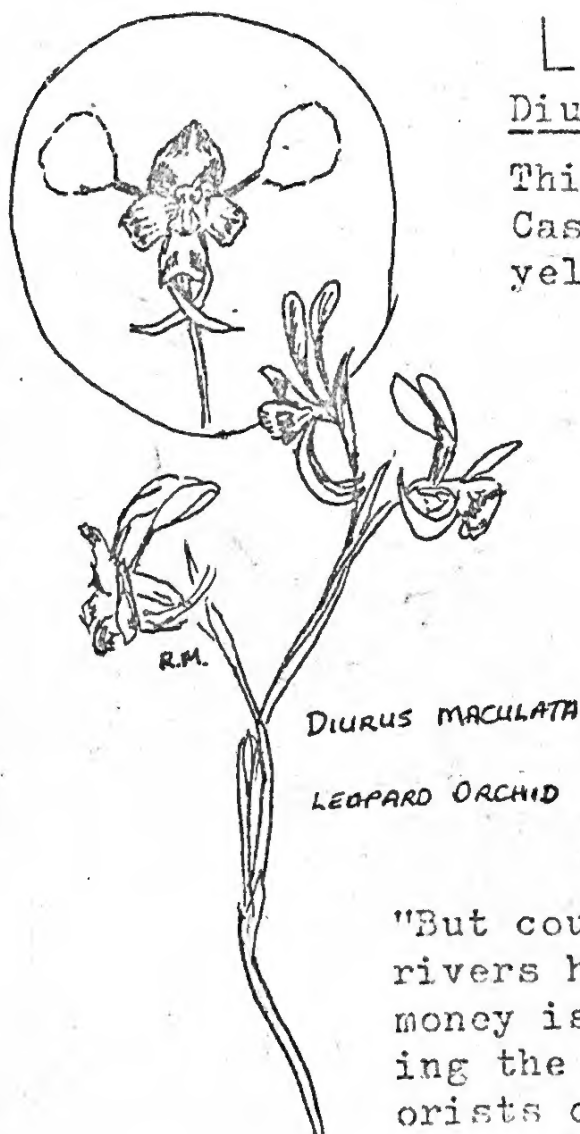
The 20-40 cm stem is often twisted and carries from 2 to several flowers.

Sometimes up to 3 stems will rise from the same place, making a small clump.

The leaves are long-linear and sheath like.

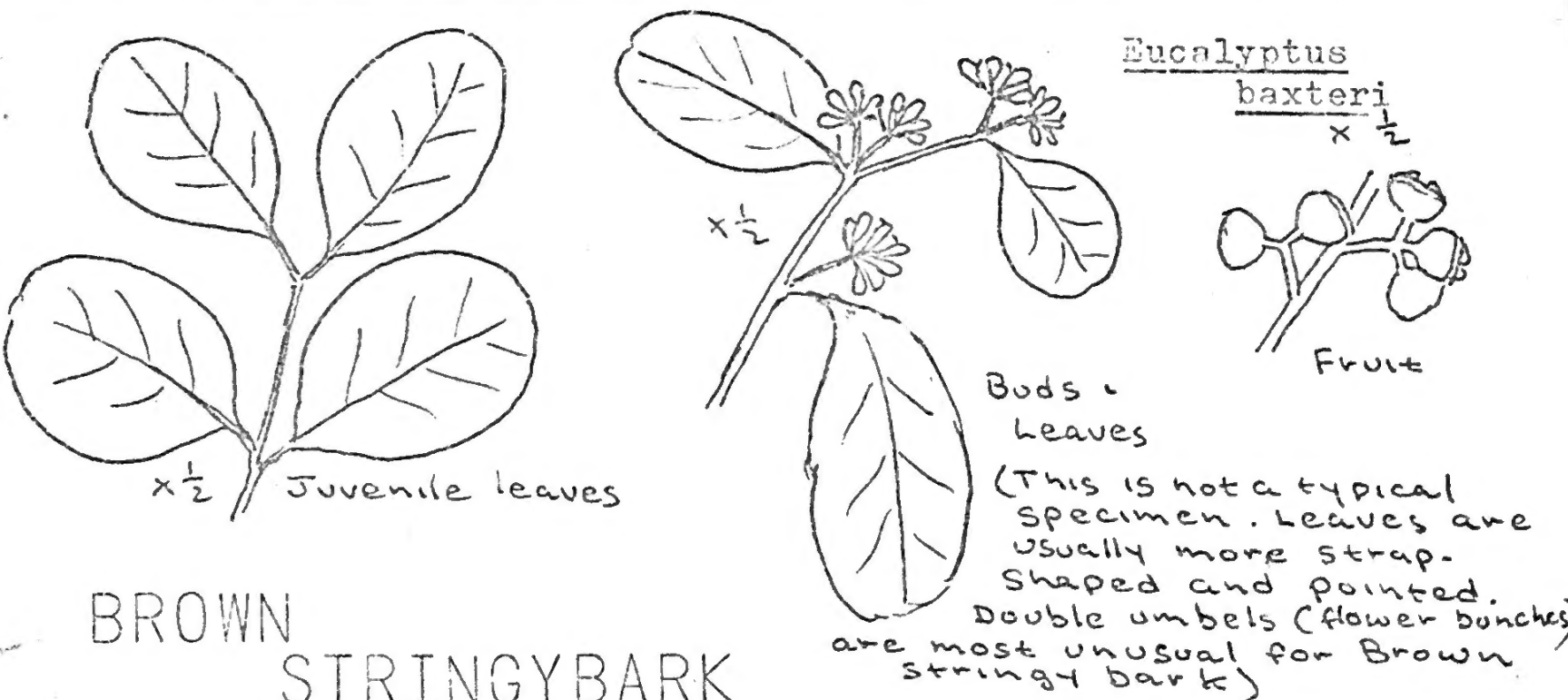
Quote of the Month.

"But could we not persuade our politicians that rivers have more uses than drains, and that when money is short, we should not spend it on destroying the rural landscape of roadsides so that motorists can drive faster in order to see less, or to reach some place no longer worth seeing"
(Prof J.S.Turner, reprinted from 'Bird Observer')



DIURIS MACULATA

LEOPARD ORCHID



BROWN STRINGYBARK

Brown Stringybark is a fairly common tree in the wetter hills of southern Victoria, and occurs on the Ridge Road near Daylesford. It is not at all typical of the drier Castlemaine Goldfields where Red Stringybark is common.

I was thus surprised recently to see a patch of Brown Stringybark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*) growing in the Muckleford Forest (on a ridge, 1.6 km from the railway line on the road to the old ruin on the Castlemaine-Maldon Road).

Brown Stringybark can be distinguished from Red Stringybark

1. By its thick, glossy green juvenile leaves
2. By the glossy green adult leaves
3. By the rounded, often warty, caps on the buds.
4. By the more flattened fruit
5. The bark is often more spirally twisted.

THE EDUCATION CENTRE LIBRARY

These books may be borrowed by members of the Education Centre

Birds of Victoria (Gould League)

- Urban areas
- Ranges
- Oceans and Bays
- Southern and Inland Water Ways
- Dry Country
- Rare species.

Field Guide to the Flowers and
Plants of Vic. (Willis et al)

Plants in Vic (Willis) Vol 1&2

Australian Flycatchers (Officer)

Birds of Australia (McDonald)

Field Guide to Australian Birds
(Slater), Vol 1 and 2.

Complete Book of Australian
Birds (Readers Digest)

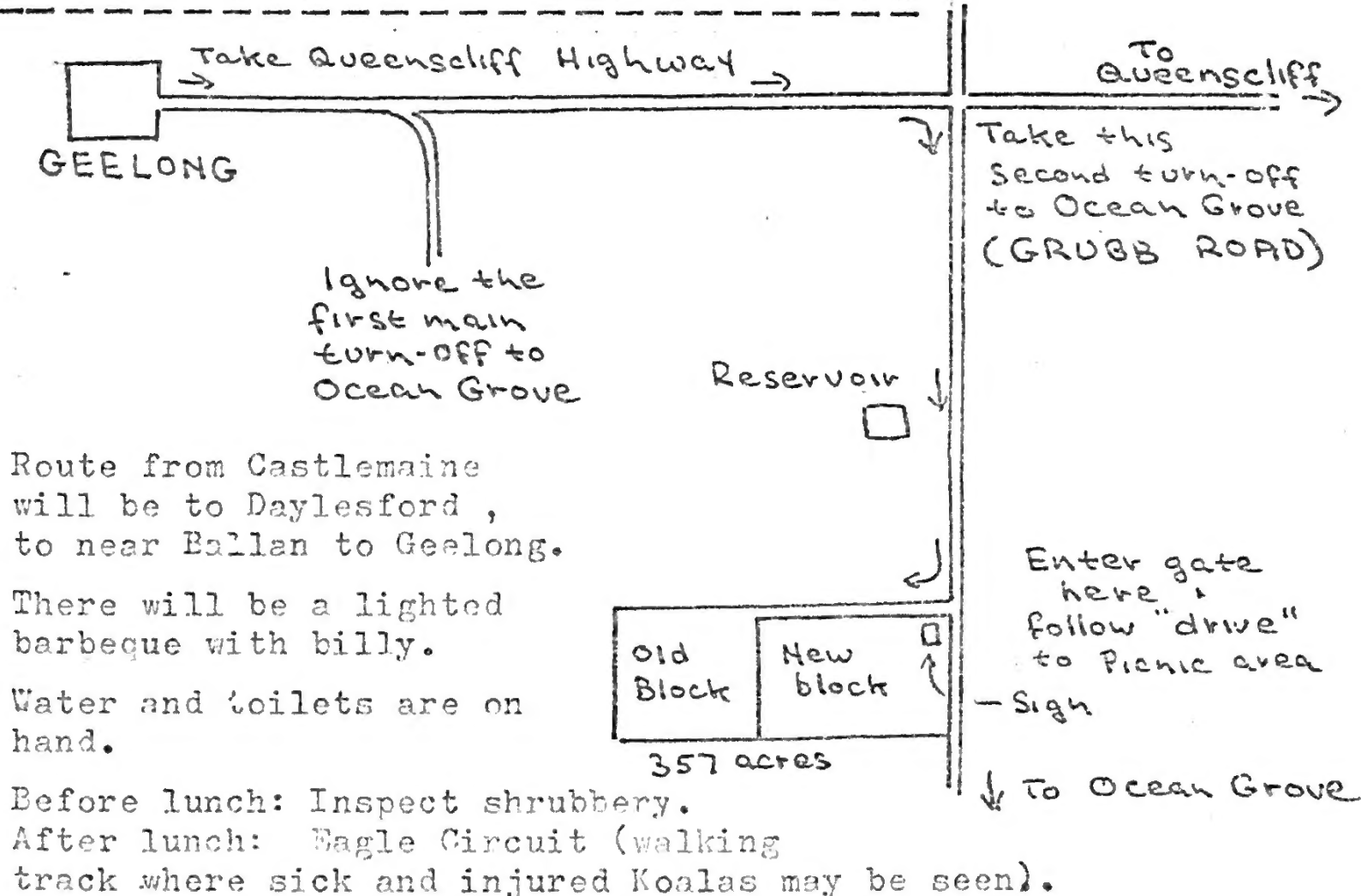
Useful Native Plants of
Australia (Maiden)

Aquatic Plants of Aust. (Aston)

Wildflower Diary (Waddell)

Forest Trees of Aust (Hall et al) Insects of Australia (CSIRO)
 Furred Animals of Aust (Troughton) Reptiles of Australia (Cogger)
 Physiography of Victoria (Hills)

EXCURSION TO OCEAN GROVE



FROM THE "MT ALEXANDER MAIL" 1861

Sportsmen potting at birds on Mt Alexander brought down what appeared to be an English thrush- vexed at his success, the sportsman told the Mail "that he hoped that he would not have to report another such lucky shot."

Mr E. Wilson liberated several English thrushes, and he later offered a reward for information concerning them. A Sandhurst man found one, killed it and beheaded it, and then claimed the reward, but whether from Mr Wilson or not is not clear.
 (From files of "Mt Alexander Mail", 29/4/1861) by R. Bradfield

ADDITIONS TO THE CLUB LIBRARY

Conservation of Archeological and Historic Features of the Loddon Campaspe Region (Loddon/Campaspe R.P.A.)

Protection and Preservation of Aboriginal Relics (Vic Archaeological Survey)

Mallee for our first wilderness

Victoria's first "wilderness area" will be a 114,000 hectares of wild sand dunes and scrub in the western corner of the Mallee.

The reserve, next to a large South Australian park, will contain no roads or major tracks.

It is one of the final recommendations to State Cabinet from the Land Conservation Council on land use in the Mallee.

The LCC report, which Cabinet is almost certain to accept, covers 1,745,000 hectares of Crown land in north-western Victoria.

Other major recommendations include:

- Assignment to agriculture of 107,000 hectares of public land scattered across the region.

- Creation of two new major parks.

- Extension of Wyperfeld and Hattah-Kulkyne National Parks.

- Use of "uncommitted land" — totalling 60 per cent of the area studied — for military training, timber cutting, honey production and grazing.

- Reservation of smaller land parcels for education areas; bush-land, flora and fauna and recreation reserves; minerals and stone and hardwood production.

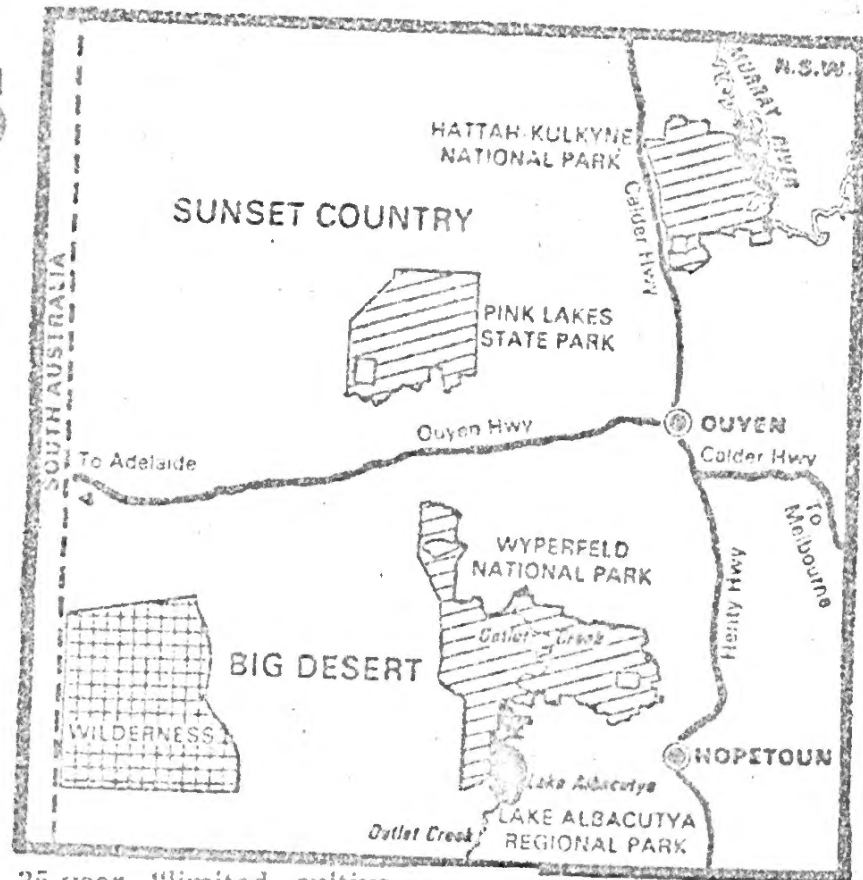
The LCC's recommendations change many of the draft proposals released for public comment in March last year.

Land set aside for cropping and grazing has increased by roughly 30 per cent, from 81,000 to 107,000 hectares.

A major section of the proposed Wyperfeld National Park

extension — the wooded picnic and grazing area of Pine Plains in the north — has fallen instead into the "uncommitted" section.

Two-thirds of the land proposed for agriculture will be sold outright. The other 34,000 hectares will be leased for "limited cultivation," making legal the grazing which has been going on in the area for years.



This 35-year "limited cultivation lease" is a new form of land tenure which grants the Government supervisory power to prevent overcropping, clearing and general land misuse.

The chairman of the LCC, Mr. Sam Dimmock, said yesterday provision for the lease and sale of agricultural land was among the report's most significant recommendations.

"The whole history of this matter has been very complicated and confused—people just didn't know where they stood," he said.

"These recommendations, which tidy up the situation, are of great importance."

The two new parks proposed by the LCC are a 49,500-hectare State park at Pink Lakes, in the Sunset Country, noted for its saltbush flats; and a 10,700-hectare regional park at Lake Albacutya, on Outlet Creek, which carries tall woodlands of red gums.

The director of the Conservation Council of Victoria, Mr. H. R. Johnson, last night welcomed the LCC's recommendations.

By JENNIFER BYRNE,

THE AGE,

11/7/77

THE ALPINE AREA - LCC Report.

The Land Conservation Council Report on the Alpine Area of Victoria is available from the Government Printer, P.O. Box 203, North Melbourne 3051 at a cost of \$5.50 posted.

Submissions are invited from interested persons or bodies in regard to the use of public land in this area. These must be lodged by Sept 30, 1977.

The study area covers more than 14 000 square kilometres, and includes all of the alpine and most of the sub-alpine land in Victoria. The LCC will consider all submissions and then make a report to the State Government.

The Victorian National Parks Association has published proposals for a 10 000 sq. km. National Park in the area. This club has asked for a copy of this proposal as an aid to making this club's submission. Time is short, members with ideas for our submission would need to have them complete Frid Sept 9th.

Interesting areas in the Loddon Dist

(From a study by J.C. McColl and Assoc Pty Ltd, 1975)

1. Bacchus Marsh to Gisborne Rd 2 000 ha of native forest
2. Gisborne Graptolite Quarries In the Slaty Ck and Ridell areas - some of the best graptolite fossils ever found in the world.
3. Wynwick's Property at Macedon 122 ha of private bushland in Waterfalls Road.
4. Mt Macedon Memorial Cross Reserve 10 ha of Forest Special reserve.
5. Hanging Rock Crown land reserve.
6. Mt Macedon Northern Faces Privately owned.
7. Newham Forest block in Macedon area.
8. William Ridge A uniquely N-S running ridge, with a rare stone axe quarry.
9. Ridge Rd, Elphinstone 2 000 ha with diverse & unique wildflowers
10. Mt Tarrengower High scenic attraction.
11. Moonlight Flat Geological Reserve 1 ha of Forest Scenic Reserve with unique rock outcrop.
12. Mt Alexander Dog Rocks. 5 ha of Forest Scenic Reserve.
13. Trentham Falls Vertical drop is some 24 m.
14. Bendigo Geology O'Sullivan's property at Spring Plains. Has outstanding glacial topography of Permian age.

15. Bendigo Geology 2 Hill's property at Derrinal. Rare examples of well preserved glacial topography (Lake Eppalock)
16. Bendigo Geology 3 Dunns Rock at Knowsley. A famous example of glacial scars on rocks.
17. Heathcote Wildflower Reserve 5 ha of Forest special reserve.
18. Mt Ida An excellent example of true ironbark forest. Wildflowers.
19. Dargile Reserve 295 ha of Forest Special Reserve in the Puckapunyal area.
20. Tooborac Very good forest with high landscape value near Puckapunyal.
21. Pink Cliffs Reserve 43 ha of Forest Scenic Reserve with high Geological landscape and historical value near Eppalock.
22. Junortoun Privately owned area near Bendigo where rare duck orchids grow.
23. Mandurang A large area of typical native vegetation for the South Bendigo area.
24. Sugarloaf Hills An area near Bendigo with a number of rare floral species including spider orchids; it is a rich heath area.
25. Jackass Flat An area near Bendigo which is extremely rich in many wildflowers.
26. Whipstick An area of bush which has islands of florally rich mallee ecosystems. It contains all the local botanicla iations with much Red Ironbark and Box woodlands. The pattern of Mallee vegetation is as follows
 - E. viridis - in the south
 - E. viridis, E. behriana & E. incrassata -in the centre
 - E. frogattii - in the north.
27. Snake Hill Wildflower Reserve 83½ ha of Forest Special Reserve for wildflower preservation near Maryborough.
28. Paddy's Ranges Wildflower Reserve 95 ha of Forest Special Reserve with outstanding quality and variety of wildflowers near Maryborough.
29. Maryborough Forest, inc Cosstick Reserve 11 500 ha of distinctive box-ironbark forest which has high vegetative, fauna, historical, anthropological and geological value. This was the area of the first gold rush in 1848. The area contains the only known aboriginal-made rock water wells. The Cosstick Reserve is 5 ha of typical goldfields only 1½ km from Maryborough.

30. Moliagul Historical Reserve 490 ha of Forest Special Reserve with high historic value. Near Dunolly.
31. Moliagul Block True ironbark forests which are rich in general fauna and are nesting areas for a multitude of bird species.
32. Melville Caves An area of granitic hills north of Rheola. Important for its uniquely weathered, split stones which naturally form rock shelters.
33. Inglewood Rifle Range A small area which is important for its abundant and unique distribution of wildflowers.
34. Mt Korong An area near Wychitella with very bold granitic landscape
35. Korong Vale This is a railway water supply reserve of 14 ha near Wychitella. It has high historical value and is at the head of 800 ha catchment rich in fauna and flora.
36. Wychitella Forest A State wild-life reserve, it is the eastern most extension of the mallee-fowl in Victoria.
37. St Arnaud Wax Garden 10 ha of Forest Special Reserve which is highly acclaimed as a wildflower/ general flora reserve.
38. Teddington Reservoir 6 500 ha of forested catchment with an abundance of birds and kangaroos.
39. Leagur 4000 ha, Forest Park with high scenic, recreational and fauna and flora preservation value, near Wychitella.
40. Terricks Rock Picnic Area 50 ha of Forest Special Reserve.
41. Kerang Wetlands This is the south-eastern portion of prime waterbird nesting wetlands-both freshwater and saline. The most important freshwater areas are those with gently sloping margins, reed beds and red gum/box on the water's edge. The most important saline areas have no reeds and are mainly for feed
42. Gunbower Island Very important wild life habitat
43. Corop Wetlands North-western portion of prime waterfowl nesting wetlands.
44. Lake Marmal Near Wychitella; a good area for wildlife.
45. Lake Boort Very good associated natural timber and vegetation. Also has high recreational value. European carp are becoming a problem.
46. Kow Swamp In the past had much water fowl, but now high water tables and salinity has killed most natural timber.

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 Newsletter Editor: E. Perkins. Contributions are invited.

CLUB PROGRAM

August Meeting Friday Aug 12

Speaker: Mr E. Whitbourn
Subject: Victorian Birds and their habitats.

September Meeting Fri Sept 9

Speaker: Mr G. Douglas, Pres
Macedon Ranges Preservation Society.
Subject: Land Use Planning & the Environment.

October Meeting Fri Oct 14
Members night.

November Meeting Frid Nov 11
Film night.

CAMERA CLUB

On the meeting Aug 16, the speaker will be Mr B. Singleton. Subject: Japan.

This will be a sequel to the address to our club, and our members are invited.

8 p.m. at the Education C.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday Aug 25, 8 p.m, in the Education Centre.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

Beaglehole Fund Members have guaranteed \$41 so far. We have written to WVFNCA saying that we will meet our quota of \$50. Other pledges would be welcomed.

WVFNCA-Colac Meeting

Meeting is at 6.30 on Sat Aug 27, followed by a program by the Colac FNC. Mr Meyer will be a delegate from this club. It would be good to have other representatives.

EXCURSIONS

Saturday Aug 13th Taradale, along the old Metcalfe Road. Leader is Mrs Mills. Leave Ed. Centre 1.30.

Sunday Aug 14 Muckleford
Ballarat S.G.A.P. excursion to Castlemaine/Muckleford. See E. Perkins if interested in this.

Saturday Aug 27 Colac

1.00 Stony Rises and Volcanic Lakes or, alternatively
1.00 Gellibrand River Wattles.

Sunday Aug 28 Otway Ranges
Leave Colac at 9.30 for Atkins Creek and the Otway Rain Forest. (the above 3 excursions are part of the WVFNCA camp-out at Colac)

Sunday Aug 28 Bendigo Whipstick
All day excursion. Leave Ed Centre at 10. 30 a.m.

Saturday Sept 10 Muckleford
Forest. Leave Ed. Centre at 1.30

Sat Sept 24 Ocean Grove Sanctuary
Leave Ed Centre at 8 a.m. or meet at the Sanctuary at 10.00 a.m. Leader is Mr Bransgrove.

October 8-9 Grampians Camp-out
See Mr Sitch for details.

October 1-2 Brisbane Ranges
W.V.F.N.C.A. camp-out at the Brisbane Ranges.

Sunday October 16 Rheola Bus
trip with Historical Society. Leader: Mr Bradfield

Sunday Nov 6th Mt Beckworth
Joint excursion with Creswick.

April 22,23 Vaughan/Castlemaine
WVFNCA camp-out.

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Ed Centre Users will now pay rent. Sec. is to discuss with Ed. Centre.